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Dancing Queen
Amy Brohm grooves to the tunes of Ragged Company during the 11th annual Highlands Christmas Shindig at the Haliburton Legion on Nov. 30. For more photos, see inside this edition. /TIM YANO Staff photographer

Settlement found between Grass Lake parties at odds

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It's been a long time coming, but the ongoing dispute between Harburn Holdings and Friends of Grass Lake around the contentious property development has been resolved.

"We negotiated in good faith," said Paul Wilson, the owner of the property. "I didn't get everything I wanted, and they didn't get everything they wanted, but that's how a settlement works."

For nearly four years now, the two parties have been at odds over a piece of land between Peninsula Road and Grass Lake, south of County Road 21, on the west side of Haliburton Village.

The original proposal for the land included 88 residential units spread across the four lots. In order to proceed, the Municipality of Dysart et al had

see AFFORDABLE page 2

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Arts centre gets land for Dysart facility

JAMES MATTHEWS
Staff Reporter

Haliburton County is on its way to having a purpose-built professional arts centre.

Dysart council transferred a Wonderland Road property to the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation during its Nov. 26 council meeting.

Municipal staff engaged Ed Veldboom from Russell, Christie LLP to draft a land donation agreement. It was reviewed by both council and the foundation's board of directors.

The agreement tickled the fancies of each party.

This agreement includes details on an option to repurchase the property for $1. This option would not be exercised in the event that the foundation commences construction of a new performing arts centre within the specified time frame.

That's to say the land will revert back to the municipality if construction hasn't started in five years, said Mallory Bishop, the township's clerk.

This land donation is exempt from Dysart's Sale and Disposition of Land Policy as the transfer is to a not-for-profit group and satisfies a specific community objective.

The council approval is part of a process that began in June when council voted unanimously to give about 14 acres of land at the Wonderland Road-County Road 21 intersection.

Dan Manley, the foundation's president, called the June donation a generous contribution to the local arts community.

"This represents a major step forward for our foundation, and it will kick off the important work of beginning to raise funding and awareness from the federal and provincial government, private foundations, corporate partners, and individual donors," he said in June.

Trojan Horse rolls through Haliburton

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

"A poison gift."

That's the phrase used by Michael Hurley, the president of the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions (OCHU), in reference to the infamous Trojan Horse. "It's an excellent metaphor for the privatization of healthcare in our province," he said.

According to the myths of Ancient Greece, the large wooden horse was said to have been used by the Greeks to enter the city of Troy during the Trojan Wars. The horse was presented as a gift to the city, but in reality, was filled with soldiers who tricked their way into gaining territory.

The symbol is largely used today as a means of deceit, and applied to the healthcare system to represent the false claim that privatizing certain aspects of medical care will reduce wait times in public hospitals. "It's useful because it does attract a fair amount of attention," said Hurley, referencing the large fibreglass horse perched behind him, which was parked in Head Lake Park on Nov. 28 as a part of a tour across Ontario.

This version of the Trojan Horse has been around for over 20 years, representing as a tangible symbol for trickery within political realms. Currently, it is on a tour to 55 other stops across the province, in an effort to raise awareness around Premier Doug Ford's intentions of privatizing healthcare.

Organized by the Ontario Health Coalition and the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions through the Canadian Union of Public Employees (OCHU-CUPE), the horse and its team made stops in both Haliburton and Minden, to speak with concerned citizens around the realities of what privatizing healthcare would mean for the communities.

One of the guest speakers for the local events was Chris Glover, the MPP for Spadina-Fort York, and representative for the NDP. Glover had previously visited Minden shortly after the closure of the Minden Emergency Room, and was adamant that the hospital closures are a direct result of Ford's tactics to privatize the healthcare for Ontario residents.

"Our system is deliberately being broken," he said to a crowd of over 30 who came to view the large horse, and everything it represents. "This (current) government is on a campaign to privatize healthcare. We have to fight to support our public healthcare system."

Bonnie Roe, a representative for the Haliburton Highlands Long Term Care Coalition and Aging Together as Community, echoed Glover's sentiments, and strongly encouraged all attendees to vote mindfully during the next election. "The blame lies at the foot of the Ford Government," she said.

MPP for Spadina-Fort York Chris Glover addressed a crowd in Head Lake Park on Nov. 28 to discuss the privatization of medical care in Ontario. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Affordable housing still on the roster for Grass Lake

from page 1

adopted an official plan amendment, which was later approved by the county, who passed a zoning amendment in order to enable the proposal in May, 2023.

At this point in the dispute, the approvals from the multi-tiered governmental agencies were appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal by Friends of Grass Lake (FGL); a resident-led organization dedicated to education and awareness of environmental initiatives.

A three-week hearing had been scheduled to begin on Monday, Nov. 25.

Instead, the two organizations; Harburn Holdings and FGL, found a middle ground, bypassing the hearing and moving forward in ways they found mutually agreeable.

Rather than the original proposal of 88 residential units being spread across four lots, there will now be a total of 35 units on one lot, and a single residence on the three remaining lots, for a total of 38 dwellings in total.

"We made this change on our own," said Wilson in a press release that came out in light of the settlement, "and we greatly regret having to reduce our planned contribution to Haliburton's housing needs."

According to Wilson, the intended use for the lots was to accommodate the need for affordable housing in the community. Fay Martin, who is the chair for Place for People and sits on the Habitat for Humanity board, believes they can move forward with any property that may become available.

"We're confident that we can develop a model of partnership that will bring the very best possible combination of the housing that the people who live and work in Haliburton County need," she said. "Making housing happen is so complicated and expensive that we need to be creative and collaborative to make progress, and both these organizations excel at exactly that."

When asked about reasoning behind the decision to pull back on the builds, Wilson was transparent with his thought process. "The cost is so high right now," he said. "Between construction and the cost of labour, the problem is that the time just isn't right, and I don't want to wait for years for the time to be right."

Wilson noted that while he is scaling back the build, his intention is to still offer the residence for affordable housing in the area. "I still want to support Places for People," he said, "and I will make sure I continually work with them to make it happen."

The property owner is confident that if the two parties went to the tribunal, Harburn Holdings would have come out on top. "I think we would have won if we had done it," he said. "But I was the one who agreed to drop the units."

Friends of Grass Lake are celebrating the settlement, which was formalized and made public on Monday, Nov. 25. "We are pleased that we have been able to reach this agreement with Harburn Holdings prior to the Ontario Land Tribunal hearing dates," said Don Ross, a member of FGL, in a media release sent to press agencies following the agreement. "This significant reduction in residential units will help to preserve the wetland environment to a much greater degree than the original proposal would have allowed."

"It's bittersweet," added Carolyn Langdon, a key figure in the FLG citizen group, who has been vocal about the significance of wetlands around the village of Haliburton. "It could have been worse, but these wetlands are natural filters within Haliburton, and we are losing these areas."

Langdon noted that the Ontario Land Tribunal encourages settlements between disputes prior to court proceedings. "They had set aside three weeks for the hearing," she said, "and that would have been very costly for all parties involved."

She shared that she believes it's difficult for a citizen group to "go up against a developer."

"We just don't have access to the same kind of resources," she said.

While Langdon and the FGL are aware of the housing crisis, they shared that they believe that there are other locations that could have worked for affordable housing. "We've never been opposed to housing," said Langdon. "We're just opposed to anything put on that fragile piece of land."

The FGL are hopeful that their fight against the large development could influence the types of builds happening in the municipality moving forward. "I hope we can educate people on things that would lessen the environmental footprint," said Langdon.

Snow way

Haliburton County was blasted with the first snow storm of the season this past weekend, with nearly 70 centimetres accumulating across the region. The townships of Minden Hills and Algonquin Highlands each declared a significant weather event, which resulted in all municipal buildings and properties being closed until the storm had passed. The declarations were lifted on Monday, Dec. 2. According to Environment Canada weather reports, the squalls have shifted southeast, and with a cold snap settling in, the snow will likely stay put for the next few weeks.

Staff

Over 70 centimetres of snow accumulated across the county this past weekend, resulting in a significant weather event being confirmed for two townships. /ADAM FRISK special to the *Echo*

ServiceOntario uses trailer to serve Dysart residents

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Dysart residents will have limited time to tend to their ServiceOntario needs.

ServiceOntario used to have a brick and mortar office on York Street. That was recently closed in favour of a mobile unit that will visit the township on certain days of the week to provide in-person service.

ServiceOntario is where residents can renew health cards, driver's licences, obtain birth certificates, marriage certificates, and death certificates. You have to go there to get accessible parking permits and vehicle licence plates.

Of course, many of those services can be done online nowadays.

Due to snow removal requirements and the need for public accessibility, this unit will set up in the A.J. LaRue Community Centre parking lot adjacent to the Skate Park.

The unit will be in the county two Wednesdays of the month and open from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

People are encouraged to book a visit online or by telephone.

"It's a trailer that pulls up into the parking lot here to service the community," said Mallory Bishop, Dysart's township clerk.

Councillor Pat Casey frowned on the service change.

"I'm not in favour of this whatsoever," he said. "We've got elderly people trying to abide by the law, getting stuff licenced. I heard this trailer is 55-feet long.

"So it'll be interesting to see how that works in the town parking lot in the middle of winter when there's snowmobile trailers and cars all over the place, trying to get our elderly into this (ServiceOntario trailer) that comes twice a month that they have to get online to get to do it."

Casey said the alternative is for them to drive into Minden Hills.

He suggested there may be something council could do, perhaps write the provincial government to have the decision revisited. ServiceOntario is the responsibility of the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery.

"The horse has left the barn already, but I think it's a miscalculation on the ministry's part to even think about that," Casey said.

"They haven't had a lot of uptake," Coun. Tammy Donaldson said. "They've only been here twice so far."

She said the municipality has erected signage and has taken to social media channels to spread the word to the public about the service change.

"I did follow up and ask them if there's anything we could do as well," Donaldson said. "Unfortunately, from a staff perspective, they're not going to change their decision right now because they deem Minden is close enough to be a full service centre for everybody."

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In the event that the strike lasts longer than two weeks, we will extend your subscription by one month.

THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY

Friends of the Library host sold out fundraiser

JANET TRULL

Special to the Echo

The Friends of Haliburton County Libraries were honoured to welcome their distinguished guest, actor and author R.H. Thomson on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 24.

It was a full house at the Haliburton Legion, an appropriate venue for the event, because Thomson talked about his new book, *By the Ghost Light, War, Memories and Families*. Much of the book was inspired by the hundreds of letters his family exchanged during the awful conflagration that was World War I. The letters contained mundane news, like the weather and a need for socks. They also contained some deeper messages that required extra research. One of the uncles sent a letter to Mother, explaining he was in a military hospital suffering from an ear infection. That same uncle sent a much different explanation in a letter to his brother. Apparently, syphilis was rampant among soldiers and the "jeune filles" who offered comfort. Condoms soon became regulation issue, except for Canadian soldiers who were denied them for moral reasons. A group of proper Presbyterian ladies (known as the Miss Grundys) put up a fuss about including condoms in care packages. Yes, the Dominion of Canada was uptight when it came to sex, rocketing Canadian soldiers into first place for time off for sexually transmitted infection treatment. The bad news? A soldier didn't get paid for lounging around in a military hospital.

That story provided a bit of joviality in an otherwise serious presentation. Of the great uncles who served, four were killed on the battlefield, two spent time convalescing at the Gravenhurst Sanatorium and died young, and only one lived to old age.

Along with Thomson's presentation, attendees browsed the silent auction items. They also had a chance to chat with local resident, Kevin Hebib, wearing an authentic 1915 Victoria and Haliburton uniform. Kevin has been a show business colleague of R.H. Thomson, having worked with him on many sets for television and film. Kevin is an armourer by profession, with expertise in weapons and authentic military gear for movie sets, including the award winning film, *War Horse*. He graciously participated in the introductions, giving an important connection to local history with some interesting facts about the young men who left the highlands for what they considered a call to duty by Mother England.

The audience was mesmerized by Robert Thomson's storytelling. He read the prologue to his book, and talked about his personal transformation from a young lad who was intrigued by weapons and fighting and war machines, to an adult gradually coming to terms with the unimaginable cost of human lives cut short. Without the moral urgency of World War Two, the first World War saw nine and a half million soldiers from over thirty countries lay down their lives for Imperialism. Kings and Queens and Archdukes and Czars were all battling for power. In the end, no one was the winner. Thomson quoted Stacey LaForme, former chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation who explains the Indigenous understanding of war; both sides lose. One side, however, loses more.

As Canadians, our war narrative has been about being on the winning side. But the casualties tell a different story. That's why Thomson started an international project called "The World Remembers", which projects the names of all soldiers killed in World War One, regardless of nationality or race, onto war memorials. Remembering "them" as an army or a battalion is not enough, Thomson says. We must name the war dead if we are to understand the sheer relentlessness of war. We must honour every individual life lost if we are committed to a future where peace is possible. Those who attended the Remembrance Day Service in Haliburton on Nov. 11 heard the names of local soldiers read aloud. The lads who never came home are not forgotten.

The Friends of the Library thank all who attended this annual fundraiser. The individuals and businesses who sponsored the event and donated auction items have given much needed support to our public libraries in Haliburton County. Their generosity is recognized and appreciated.

R.H. Thomson signs a copy of his book *By the Ghost Light* at the Friends of the Library fundraiser in Haliburton on Nov. 24. /photo submitted

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Remembering École Polytechnique this winter

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Do you remember where you were on Dec. 6, 35 years ago? It started as a day like any other. A cold and drizzly in Montreal, with the sun setting early and the countdown to Christmas well underway. But as the sun set on Dec. 6, 1989, 14 women were killed at the École Polytechnique, a post-secondary institution with a focus on engineering.

The shooter separated men and women in each room - sending the men to safety while he shot down each female student who crossed his path; a blatant act of gender-fuelled violence.

This day would change the course of history as we knew it; with major shifts made across the country when it came to access to firearms, emergency response protocols, and advocacy for women in male-dominated industries.

Nora Stewart is the Vice President of the Canadian Federation of University Women Haliburton Highlands (CFUW-HH), and a retired engineer, who has recently returned to her "home" of the Haliburton Highlands. After 40 years of living in Calgary, the civil engineer made the move to the county, and is instrumental in coordinating the first vigil in dedication to the 14 women who were killed in Montreal in 1989.

"We need to pay attention to the fact that gender based violence still exists," said Stewart. "We'd like to commemorate the specific women who lost their lives to this violence, and became victims solely because of their sex."

Stewart went to school for engineering in the 1970s, and while she said that steps have been made since her time in training, the discrimination towards women is still prevalent in the industry. "There has been more awareness brought to the gender biases that exist," she noted, "but it continues today."

This is why the CFUW-HH will be hosting their first vigil on Dec. 6, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The ceremony is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. at the Haliburton Museum parking lot, and attendees will enter into the forest, where organizers will share the names of the 14 women murdered in the senseless killing, and take a moment of silence to remember them.

"It is common to wear a white ribbon on Dec. 6," said Stewart. "It can be worn by anyone, to symbolize the laying down of arms against gender based violence."

All are welcome to attend the memorial, and remember the women who lost their lives on this cold and drizzly day in December, 35 years ago.

> ***"We need to pay attention to the fact that gender based violence still exists.***
>
> — Nora Stewart

Turn up the heat for Places for People

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Places For People announces it's 2024 holiday fund raising campaign.

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The 'Turn Up The Heat for Places For People' campaign sprung up from the realization that we must replace an ancient oil furnace in one of our properties. The unexpected cost is $8450. Add that new purchase to the cost to keep the heat and lights on in our units last year and the bill comes to nearly $40,000.

While our tenants pay rent that incorporate some of those costs there is still a deficit at the end of the day. We need your help to ensure we can continue to operate and everyone stays warm this winter and beyond.

Last year through the generosity of Haliburton County residents, full and part time, you helped replace windows in one of our properties. Together, we raised $13,000 which went a long way to helping that project become a reality.

The goal for this holiday season is to surpass that total and raise $15,000 by Dec. 31. $200 will buy you a full degree or you can purchase a portion of a degree for less. Our aim is to 'Turn Up The Heat' to 72 Fahrenheit (room temperature).

Places For People now owns and operates 20 affordable units throughout Haliburton County without the support of government grants. Maintaining those properties and supporting our tenants is a daunting task but one we are proud to take on.

Follow our Facebook and Instagram pages throughout the month of December to see our progress as we 'Turn Up The Heat for Places For People' because every degree makes a difference.

You can purchase degrees through Canada Helps by going to our website placesforpeople.ca

For more information please contact Sherry Lawr, sherry@placesforpeople.ca 416-888-3867.

Submitted

points of view

ECHO

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Haliburton County is officially a winter wonderland thanks to the most recent snow storm. /ADAM FRISK special to the *Echo*

Editorial

Engineering

emily stonehouse

MY HUSBAND is an engineer. I remember asking him once what his dream job would be.

"I'm doing it," he replied, with confidence. He works hard and enjoys the challenges and wins that come with the career.

Naturally, his eldest daughter has been inspired by his passion for the job. She's coming up on 12; the world laid out ahead of her, and the possibilities rolling as far as her dreams can take her.

"I want to be an engineer," she said, one day not so long ago. Of course, we would be supportive of anything that makes her heart sing and her mind thrive, but at the piqued interest of potentially following in his footsteps, my husband beamed.

But I stopped. Caught off guard. Frozen in headlights.

Because all my mind was screaming was December 6. 14 women.

Because they were women. Because they were women. Because they were women.

Every woman has pictured herself in the shoes of one of those women at École Polytechnique on December 6, 1989. The Montreal Massacre. A shooter enters the room, and barks out orders.

Men on one side, women on the other.

December 6. 14 women. Because they were women.

And every year, we remember them. Like many significant events in human history, their deaths set off a domino effect of changes: national access to firearms was altered, emergency protocols shifted, and suddenly, violence against women found itself a spot on an international stage.

And while many take the time to reflect, how far have we really come in terms of lessening the gap that so many fell through? Engineering is still a male-dominated industry; with over 86 per cent in the field identifying as male.

Journalism is also an area where men take the lead, and while I deeply respect and admire my male colleagues, I find myself bumping up against a glass ceiling on a regular basis; a moth chasing a light through the window.

And for the women who are in these fields - elbowing our way through the masses and clawing at splintered glass - the gender wage gap still exists. As of July of this year, in Canadian private sector positions, men make an average of 10 per cent more than women, with an hourly average wage gap of 13 per cent across the country. And that's just skimming the surface of the gendered disparities that run rampant in our society.

All because they were women.

It's these discrepancies, these blatant examples of misogynistic imbalance, that force women to feel less. That drain us; using our energy to continually bump up against that glass ceiling. Again and again. A moth to the light.

We need to scream from the rooftops that we need change. Create a world filled with people who understand empathy, who strive for equity, who fight for fairness. The next generation is dependent on that. We can always do better. For them. For December 6. For 14 women. Because they were women.

So that one day, when our daughters tell us they dream of being engineers, or anything else on the other side of that glass ceiling, may we all be able to beam, with the possibilities rolling as far as their dreams can take them.

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Our road

Down

sharon lynch

It's starting

HE WASN'T surprised to see it but had hoped for more time. So when Dan looked outside and saw the white landscape, all he could do was sigh. It wasn't much – just a thin covering of snow. But it signalled the inevitable start of winter. And all that came with it.

For Dan, winter was no longer the dreaded season of his past. Comfortable in his modest home, he had heat and food and reliable transportation. Such had not always been the case and he knew many others continued to experience what was only an unpleasant memory for him.

He liked all the seasons, including the snowy one. It was just that the memories of those early winters inevitably returned with every year's first snowfall.

When he first moved to the country, Dan had been a real novice. He had tried to heat his small house with unseasoned wood, drive his sideroad with bald tires and buy his groceries with inadequate funds. Plastic sheets had covered his windows to keep in as much heat as possible while the snow piled up in the unplowed driveway.

Now as he went into the kitchen to start the morning coffee ritual, he thought back to how tough those early years had been. He was so grateful they were gone. Nothing like a decent-paying, steady job and friends to get a person through tough times.

Then the phone rang. It was Bill, his neighbour down the road. Would Dan be up for a trip into town later? Dan hesitated. Among other voices, the woodpile was calling him to bring in more pieces for the box by the stove. Domestic chores now tended to pile up since Marie had passed and Dan really liked a neat and clean house. If he didn't do them, they didn't get done. But on the other hand, as he told himself, those chores weren't urgent and an outing with Bill meant maybe a donut and catch-up on local gossip. So he said yes to the invite.

By the time Bill got his act together and picked up Dan later in the day, the snow had started again and this time it was more than a thin dusting. But both men were now looking forward to getting some errands done and sharing the ride. Since the time change, the dark came surprisingly soon and Dan hoped they'd be back before the night descended.

Bill was a fast driver. Dan knew this and was immediately nervous when he compared the speedometer with the white on the other side of the windshield. Just as he was about to suggest Bill slow down they hit a patch of slush that grabbed the wheels unexpectedly. The car started to slide sideways. Bill then over-compensated and lost control.

Out of the corner of his eye Dan saw a truck crest the hill, heading straight for their sliding car. He braced himself for the impact. The world then began moving in slow-motion as the truck hit the car's rear end, spinning it around twice before it landed in the ditch. With the front end stuck in a muddy bank of wet dirt and snow, the two men sat stunned for a minute. The truck driver had pulled over and ran over to see if they were hurt.

They were shaken but otherwise fine. Bill's car less so. Although it was still drive-able, both men decided to leave the trip to town for another day. Bill muttered something about having to call his insurance agent when he got home as he re-traced their trip at a much slower pace.

Bill dropped off Dan with a promise to do the trip another time. Dan was just glad to be home. He was also glad it was Dan's car that got hit and not his own.

Looking outside again from the kitchen window, he saw how the scene had changed from that morning. It was now dusk and the snow was coming fast and thick, blanketing Dan's yard. He sighed in relief at being home instead of on the road. Then pulling on his jacket, he turned up the collar and headed out the door once again. Winter wonderland or not, the wood box still needed to be filled.

points of view

Artistic Endeavour

steve galea

Loon Tales

"I'M GOING to the store," Jenn announced yesterday afternoon. "Do you need anything?"

"Yes," I replied. "Could you buy me a single green grape and some Scotch tape?"

"Sure," she said.

She did not ask why. I suspect because she instinctively knew that this was what would fuel my stellar rise in the art world. Or it might have been because she gave up asking long ago. Who can say?

In any case, my plan was inspired by Maurizio Cattelan – a brilliant Italian artist.

How brilliant? Well, his most famous recent work, called *The Comedian,* is a banana attached to a wall by silver duct tape. And it sold for 6.2 million dollars.

This told me two things. First, art is a nebulous, intellectual, and subjective thing. Second, I'm in the wrong business.

Of course, I am not the sort of person who plagiarizes, so I created a totally different concept. I call it, *The Dad Joke.* It is a dramatic piece which serves to remind us that there is always something highly overpriced and marginally humorous to laugh at.

I won't provide too many details of its construction, because I think it is something you really need to experience – plus it's too easy to copy.

Suffice it to say, its components are a green grape, some Scotch tape, and a piece of dry wall. And I expect it to sell for somewhere around 12.2 million dollars.

In case you are wondering why, have you seen the price of green grapes lately?

Also, this is a one-of-a-kind work of art, and my first foray into the art world.

Admittedly, the price might be a little out of reach for most local art lovers. So, let's just say, I'm willing to haggle.

My real target market is tech billionaires – especially those who have already bought and own everything they ever wanted and now seek attention for doing something quirky. So, if any of my readers know that kind of person, please make them aware of it.

Again, I'm willing to haggle – and accept payment in small denominations and coins.

Heck, I'm used to that.

Some of you might be wondering why I chose to make the switch from being a mediocre humour writer to world famous artist, especially this late in my career.

There are many reasons. Not the least of which is I look pretty good in a beret and pencil moustache. Also, the money.

OK, mostly the money.

After seeing that a person could get that kind of money for taping fruit to walls, it occurred to me that I might have taken the wrong career path. My last pay-cheque didn't help either.

If this takes off, I plan on a series of other fruit tapings and even a few hot glueings. I might even get a bit adventurous and use a nail gun. My creativity is endless.

I also expect full well that I will not be appreciated in my time – except by the folks who sell smocks and berets.

I'm OK with that too. Which is to say I will brood a little, consider cutting off an ear, but then remember that this would not be good since it would make it difficult to wear my new fishing glasses.

I knew it was not going to be easy and was fully prepared to be a starving artist. Luckily, when Jenn came home, she handed me a big bunch of grapes.

pic *of the* past

Sir Sam's Ski & Ride is now preparing for a busy winter ahead. Here, the entire Bishop family, Bob and Noreen and their five children, Rob, Chris, JD, Angela and Steve stand in front of the original ski chalet built in 1965. Submitted by Nancy Bishop

letters to the editor

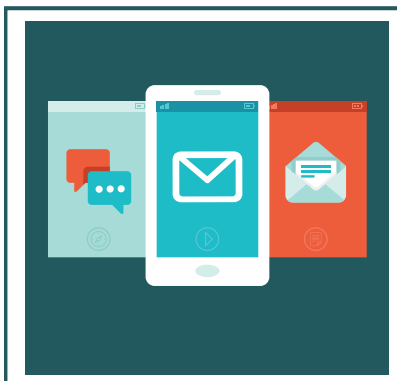
Big thanks to local Legion

To the Editor,

Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library would like to thank everyone who contributed to ensuring our 16th Annual Fundraiser was a resounding success. 150 library supporters were enthralled by actor/author R.H. Thomson's presentation. The Haliburton Legion Branch 129 was an ideal venue. We would like to acknowledge the generous assistance and support of managers Mike and Cheryl Waller.

Gwen Pennylegion
Board Member
Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

Public health increases county's funding portion

JAMES MATTHEWS
Staff Reporter

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Public Health unit's budget for next year has a slight increase.

The health unit's 2025 budget reflects a 0.7 per cent increase over the previous year and a 2.2 per cent increase to the cost-shared budget.

The cost-shared budget reflects the provincial and municipal contributions to the unit's base budget, said Dr. Natalie Bocking, the unit's medical officer of health.

The provincial contribution increased one per cent, while municipal contributions increased five per cent.

The total spending plan entails $22.4 million. Haliburton County's 2025 contribution toward that purse is $666,396.

"To realize any sort of maintenance of services and also be able to continue to expand services with continued provincial priorities and introduction of programs, municipal contributions then increase at a higher rate than the provincial increase in order to do that," Bocking said.

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It's all Greek to me

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School put on a clever, fun, and colourful rendition of *Circus Olympus* last week, and over the weekend. Unfortunately due to an inclement weather day, two of their performances on Friday were cancelled, but they were able to perform on opening and closing nights. The production was a part of the senior drama class at the high school, and all acting, production, and direction was completed by students. The students will be taking the show on the road to perform at an upcoming Star Festival in Toronto. /TM YANO Staff photographer

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Early mental health outreach can beat later drug deaths

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

There is much data that paints a picture of the drug poisoning crisis in communities under the umbrella of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Public Health unit.

But those dry figures, the impersonal numbers belie a crucial facet of the crisis, said Kate Hall, the unit's public health promoter.

"Behind the data are our people, our loved ones, our friends, our families," she said during Haliburton County council's Nov. 27 meeting.

The drug poisoning crisis is a complex community health issue fuelled by synthetic opioids, Hall said. It's impacts affect the drug users themselves, their families and friends, and the whole community.

"The drug poisoning crisis is characterized by unprecedented deaths from an unregulated drug supply that's becoming increasingly unpredictable and more and more toxic," Hall said.

Fentanyl was involved in most deaths, often mixed with stimulants.

Vidya Sunil, an epidemiologist with the public health unit, said the Haliburton-Kawartha-Pine Ridge area had a greater hospitalization rate for drug poisoning than the rest of Ontario in 2023.

The most deaths in the health unit's region was seen in 2021 with 50 fatalities. Of those, eight were in Haliburton County. Last year, there were 36 deaths in the region with none in Haliburton County.

Between 2018-23, opioid-related deaths rose with a total of 205 drug poisoning fatalities. Fentanyl was present in 86 per cent of those opioid-related deaths in the Haliburton-Kawartha-Pine Ridge area in 2023 alone.

Sunil said there's an overdose information dashboard on the public health unit's website.

Hall said a four-pillar approach has been adopted to meet the recent spike in drug poisoning incidents in Haliburton County, Northumberland County, and the City of Kawartha Lakes.

The four-pillar approach to addressing the drug poisoning crisis has gained credibility by public health agencies throughout Ontario. Those pillars are prevention, treatment and recovery, harm reduction, and community safety.

Integrated comprehensive treatment programs are required to effectively meet the crisis. That includes social services connections with all levels of health care professions.

Hall likened that to an "all of society approach" to the crisis.

"Investment in programs that support families and address youth mental health are critical to reduce the risk of substance use disorders in adulthood," Hall said.

To that end, youth wellness hubs have proven effective.

Of people surveyed with drug use experience, the most common method to ingest drugs was smoking. The relative few who indicated injection as the favour means of ingestion, more than two thirds reported that they have reused injection equipment in the last six months.

The stimulant of choice is crystal meth, while the more favoured depressant was indicated to be fentanyl.

Regarding identified local needs, 71 per cent of users surveyed indicated the greatest community support strategy would be having a safe place to live. Most wanted drug testing kits to increase harm reduction from drug use.

Dane Record, executive director of the Peterborough AIDS Resource Network, said substance use is a public health issue in all areas, all communities. A number of policing organizations have been working toward the decriminalization of drug use, having recognized it could be a mental health issue.

> ***The drug poisoning crisis is characterized by unprecedented deaths from an unregulated drug supply that's becoming increasingly unpredictable.***
>
> – Kate Hall, public health promoter

There are some police agencies that have a mental health nurse that accompanies officers responding to drug-related or mental health related crisis situations. A friendly face connecting with people at the time of incident using a softer handed approach can be effective.

Public health looks to improve response to harmful algae

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

The COVID-19 pandemic brought public health into the spotlight, elevated it to the forefront of everybody's minds.

But those people aren't necessarily familiar with the entire scope of what the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Public Health Unit does, said Dr. Natalie Bocking.

Haliburton County council heard Nov. 27 how public health work is grounded in a "population health" approach. It's focused on upstream efforts to promote health and prevent diseases to improve the health of populations and the differences in health between groups, said Bocking, the unit's medical officer of health.

"We in some ways have an infinite mandate," she said. "I talk about our work as focusing on 4Ps."

Those are protection against disease and health hazards, prevention of illness and disease, promotion of wellbeing, and at a population level.

The unit's upstream concerns are the social determinants of health, healthy behaviours, healthy communities, and an assessment of a population's health.

"We take a life-course approach," Bocking said. "Our focus is on keeping well at a community level."

That community is comprised of about 188,000 people throughout the region that's under the umbrella of the health unit. Of its 176 staff members, 13 of them are in the office that serves Haliburton County in a myriad of health disciplines.

"We have a large team of very diverse professionals," Bocking said.

Some of the public health issues that have taken the spotlight in the HKPR region include the impacts of climate change on health, new and re-emerging infectious diseases, and the current drug poisoning crisis.

"With all of our programs and services, we do have the opportunity to tailor it to meet local needs with a particular focus on health equity," she said.

One such local need in the county is maintaining the health and integrity of its lakes and streams.

> ***With all of our programs and services, we do have the opportunity to tailor it to meet local needs***
>
> – Dr. Natalie Bocking

Councillor Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, said there are many bodies of water in the county and, with climate and weather change, there's been a rapid increase of blue-green algae blooms.

That algae, called cyanobacteria, can be harmful to humans and animals. Exposure to high levels of it can cause diarrhea and vomiting; skin, eye, and throat irritation; and breathing difficulties. Pets and livestock could die because of it.

"Many of the people associated with the lakes are looking for the health unit to take a more proactive approach to alerting people once one of these blooms has been recognized," Carter said. "We have lots of people here who still take their water from the lakes and, as you know, most normal treatments will not handle blue-green algae."

Spreading awareness of those algae blooms is something that should be within the health unit's purview, he said.

Bocking said she'll bring that concern to the unit's environmental health managers. They meet regularly with Haliburton County staff and people with the Ministry of Environment.

She said there's a need for more coordinated communications.

"It does always become challenging when it's a multi-institution response," she said. "Our communication protocol, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, has largely relied on the Ministry of Environment related to that."

Warden Liz Danielsen, who is the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, said blue-green algae is a major issue in her township.

"We really would appreciate your looking into that and seeing if we can improve communications streams," Danielsen said.

She shoots, she scores

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Cheyenne Degeer is no stranger to hockey. If anything, she's making her mark on the sport in the community.

The Grade 12 student from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School recently played for Team Ontario during the Under 18 National Women's Hockey Championship in New Brunswick, and won. "It honestly feels amazing," Degeer said. "It's the coolest experience I've ever had in hockey."

Degeer grew up in the sport, and remembers falling in love with it from a young age. "I was three, maybe four when I started," she recalled, noting that she got her start with the local Highland Storm.

"I played with the boys up to the Peewee level, then switched to a girls team in Peterborough, said Degeer.

Although she loved the sport, she said that growing up in a small community, playing a sport that was mostly male-dominated, came with its own challenges. "I got changed in a lot of supply closets along the way," she chuckled.

While she had no issues when it came to the physical side of playing with and against boys through the hockey leagues, she noted that she was missing the camaraderie of team sportsmanship.

"When I started playing with girls, the sport wasn't different, but I found a community," she said. "I found my best friends out of it."

Last year, Degeer was asked to play on the blue team for Team Ontario during the championships. That tournament brought her out to British Columbia, and prepared her for what was in store this year.

"I started with the blue team, but the red team is the more advanced team," she said. "And this year, I was asked to play on the red team, alongside 20 of the best women players in the province."

Degeer and her team faced off against Quebec in the finals at the national tournament this year, after a full week of hockey. Playing centre for the Ontario Team, Degeer was deep in the action when they pulled out a win for the tournament, putting them on top in the country.

The next stop for Degeer is St. Lawrence University in New York, where she will be playing for the university team. And she doesn't plan on slowing down there. "Hopefully I'll have a chance to play nationally," said Degeer, referencing the Professional Women's Hockey League, "but that's a long way away from now."

Growing up in Haliburton, Degeer feels proud to be a young woman in the sport that she so loves, and hopes she can inspire other young girls to follow their dreams.

"There were not a lot of girls playing hockey when I was growing up," she said, referencing the few she did meet along the way, and how they helped guide her to where she is today. "Now that I get to be one of those girls, who can be there for younger girls, that's so special."

Cheyenne Degeer of Haliburton recently won top spot in the Under 18 National Women's Hockey Championship in New Brunswick. /Submitted

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Beauty, love and friendship for Those Other Movies

December's film for Those Other Movies will touch your heart and leave you smiling. *My Penguin Friend* will be showing on Dec. 12 at 4:15 and 7:15 p.m at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion.

Inspired by a true story and filmed on the spectacular coasts of Brazil and Argentina, *My Penguin Friend* is an enchanting adventure about a lost penguin rescued from an oil spill who transforms the life and soul of a heartbroken fisherman. This unlikely pair become so bonded as friends, even the vast ocean cannot divide them. Movie reviewer Christy Lemire says, "It's an earnest, crowd-pleasing family film… just a sweet, beautifully made movie that earns the emotion it'll surely draw from its viewers."

Directed by David Schurmann with the screenplay written by Kristen Lazarian and Paulina Lagudi, the film stars Jean Reno (international star) and Adriana Barraza (Oscar nominee). Reno plays João with a moving performance showing joy, sorrow and an impish sense of playfulness. Sharing the spotlight is an adorable penguin. Ten rescue penguins from Ubatuba, Brazil portray the penguin Dindim and all are credited. Eighty per cent of the shots are of real penguins with the other 20 per cent (where it would have been unsafe for the real penguins) shot using computer-generated imagery (CGI) and animatronics. Schurmann shoots much of the film at low angles and from the penguin's point of view, giving the movie an exuberant feeling of childlike wonder and mischief.

My Penguin Friend is a tale that traverses the magic of the ocean, the beauty of nature, and the transformative power of love. December is a month for kindness. Celebrate that with *My Penguin Friend* and Those Other Movies.

Tickets are just $10 (cash at the door), thanks to our generous sponsors.

Looking ahead, hold the date for Those Other Movies this winter:

Jan. 9 - *The Great Escaper* - a biographical drama based on a true story of an 89-year old British World War Two Royal Navy vet who "breaks out" of his nursing home to make his way to the 70th anniversary D-Day commemorations in Normandy, France.

Feb. 13 - *We Live in Time* - A beautiful love life and love, a story of cherishing each moment, when traveling a life path that is challenged by the limits of time.

March 13 film TBA

Reserve your ticket for Doc(k) Days, Saturday, April 5, 2025 on our website. www.thoseothermovies.com.

Submitted

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Hal High Monthly

Hal High Monthly is written by the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School leadership class featuring monthy school news.

Submitted By: Lillian Ramsdale (Gr. 12), Paytra Mylan-Goulet (Gr. 12), Valerie Zagorska (Gr. 12), Sadie Fockler (Gr. 11)

This month at HHSS was full of excitement! Lots of events and sports wrapped up for the fall season and we transitioned into our fun winter activities.

The wrestling team began practices with "try-it's" and had an impressive turn out. Their team has expanded and will continue to practice for tournaments in the next month. The Nordic ski team also started up and will begin with dryland training. The boys' volleyball team and girls' basketball team wrapped up for this year. Ben McMahon, Grade 11, said, "we got crushed by a very good team," when referring to the final senior boys volleyball game. At the beginning of November, Mrs. Searle also took many excited students to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. They saw lots of prize animals, visited vendors, and shopped for Christmas.

Our school ran a successful Remembrance Day Assembly that honoured the sacrifices of our soldiers and included performances from all parts of the school. The HHSS Choir sang beautifully and the HHSS Drama Club enacted a brand new scene written by Meghan Mardus. It was based on the true story of Lois Lewis-Watts and her correspondence with her husband, Desmond, who served in World War Two. The scene also sampled real songs that Desmond sang and recorded on a record to send home to his wife. His grave can be seen today at Twelve Mile Lake Church. Monologues were performed by Jessica McCready-DeBruin and

Willow Brown from a play called *Mary's Wedding* by Steven Massicotte. One student called these performances "impressive and important."

HHSS held its annual Awards Ceremony on Nov. 21st to celebrate the students who achieved honours in their classes last year. This is a positive event that recognized the hard work and dedication of many of our students, and was an impactful event for students and staff. Ms. Carr spoke about the ceremony and said: "It's a really great opportunity for students to celebrate each other's accomplishments and be recognized for their own hard work and dedication. The assembly is a really positive environment to celebrate everyone's contributions at Hal High."

The leadership class organised a number of theme days in the month that included a Y2K Wednesday spirit day to boost school spirit and a gingerbread house building competition to celebrate National Gingerbread Day. This activity was very popular and produced some very creative gingerbread houses. Three teams were selected as winners and received fun prizes.

National Kindness Day and National Pickle Day also happened this month and were fun to celebrate. The HHSS drama class held their performance of *Circus Olympus* on Nov. 27 and 28, and ran a raffle to fundraise for the drama trip. The show was open to the community and Kendra Korpela, the stage manager, said "it was such a wonderful experience that brought all the grades of our school to work together from Grade 9 to Grade 13."

The Interact Club will also run their Teen Gift Drive next month to raise awareness and gifts for teens in the Haliburton community. This drive is very important to our school and Interact is collecting donations until Dec. 11, and all gifts will be given to teens in our community. It is our goal as a club and school community that all students look forward to the holidays.

HHSS has had an active and transitional month, full of events and new sports, and we are looking forward to another.

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Shindig shimmy

The 11th annual Christmas Shindig was held on Saturday, Nov. 30 at the Haliburton Legion. Despite the snowy weather, the event drew a full crowd, raising over $51,338 for Fuel for Warmth. With the Haliburton Lions Club offering snacks, Ragged Company playing groovy tunes, and a wide variety of auction items available, the annual event was a huge success. /TIM YANO Staff photographer

Ashley McAllister and Josh Foyster ran into a problem when it came to offering bar services at their wedding. They managed to pivot and started their newest business endeavour, the Thirsty Hitch, a mobile bar that can be booked around Haliburton County and beyond. /Photos submitted

From "I Do" to a brew–tiful business: The Thirsty Hitch's stirring love story

LISA BUCHER

Special to the Echo

When life handed Ashley McAllister and Josh Foyster lemons, they didn't just make a Lemon Drop Martini—they shook things up and made a business serving up dreams and delicious cocktails.

What started as a solution to a wedding planning hiccup has turned into a toast-worthy venture.

Faced with the challenge of finding the perfect and affordable mobile bar for their own outdoor wedding, the couple realized the answer wasn't on the menu. Instead, they'd create it themselves—and cheers to that!

Love on tap: the birth of a mobile bar

The couple didn't just tie the knot; they uncorked a new chapter. With the perfect recipe of creativity, elbow grease, and a sprinkle of love, they transformed a vintage Shasta trailer into an enchanting mobile bar. With its rustic charm and fairy-light glow, their DIY creation stole the show on their wedding day—though they might argue it was still second to the bride's dress.

People started asking, "Can we book this for our wedding?" It turns out, The Thirsty Hitch wasn't just a "one-night pourformance"—it was destined for an encore.

Shaking Up The Industry: from Passion Project To Full-Time Fizz

Ashley and Josh weren't planning on starting a business, but The Thirsty Hitch proved too good to keep bottled up. By the end of 2023, their little labour of love had grown, with several weddings on the calendar for the 2024 season.

Now, they're on the rocks—in the best way possible—serving expertly crafted cocktails and unforgettable vibes to couples across Haliburton, Muskoka, Kawartha Lakes, and beyond.

Crafting sip-spired packages for every occasion

The Thirsty Hitch doesn't just raise the bar—they are the bar, blending creativity, quality, and flair into every event. Whether it's a beer-and-wine affair or a full-on "shaker showstopper," Ashley and Josh offer custom packages as unique as their couples.

Want something classic? They have you covered with beers and wines.

Would you prefer something bold? They can serve up timeless cocktails like Manhattans and Cosmopolitans—guaranteed to put the "cheers" in your celebration.

For winter events, they turn up the heat with cosy concoctions like spiked hot chocolate and espresso martinis, proving that they're snow jokes when it comes to creativity.

The Thirsty Hitch has an option for signature drinks, which could be something like "Mint to Be Mojitos." Don't forget about four-legged family members; inspired creations could be a "Paw-secco Spritz" to ensure every guest has their day in the sun. And for those who prefer non-alcoholic options, Ashley and Josh mix up delightful virgin beverages; it could be something like "Blush & Bubbly Lemonades" or "Nojito," so everyone can join in the toast without the spirits.

Some options let the couple get creative, and others allow Ashley and Josh to take the wheel—literally - either way - The Thirsty Hitch ensures the experience is as smooth as a freshly stirred martini.

Pouring memories and making magic

Every wedding tells a story, and The Thirsty Hitch pours the charm. Ashley fondly recalls a wedding near Lindsay, Ontario, where the backyard was magically transformed into a fairytale venue adorned with glowing string lights and a custom-built stage just for their trailer.

"It was breathtaking," Ashley recalls.

Here's to the future: cheers to love, life, and libations

From their first "I do" to their latest "cheers," Ashley and Josh have crafted a business that's equal parts passion and charm.

They're ready to keep the good times rolling and flowing as they gear up for the 2025 wedding season. Because when it comes to cocktails and celebrations, The Thirsty Hitch proves that love, like a fine wine, only gets better with time.

So, raise a glass to Ashley and Josh—mixologists of merriment, connoisseurs of connection, and proof that the best ideas often come shaken, stirred, and served on wheels.

Cheers to the future!

County of Haliburton
Notice
Election of County Warden

The Council of the County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that the 2025 Warden's Election will take place on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 commencing at 4:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building located at 11 Newcastle Street in Minden. The public is welcome to attend.

Gary Dyke, CAO/County Clerk
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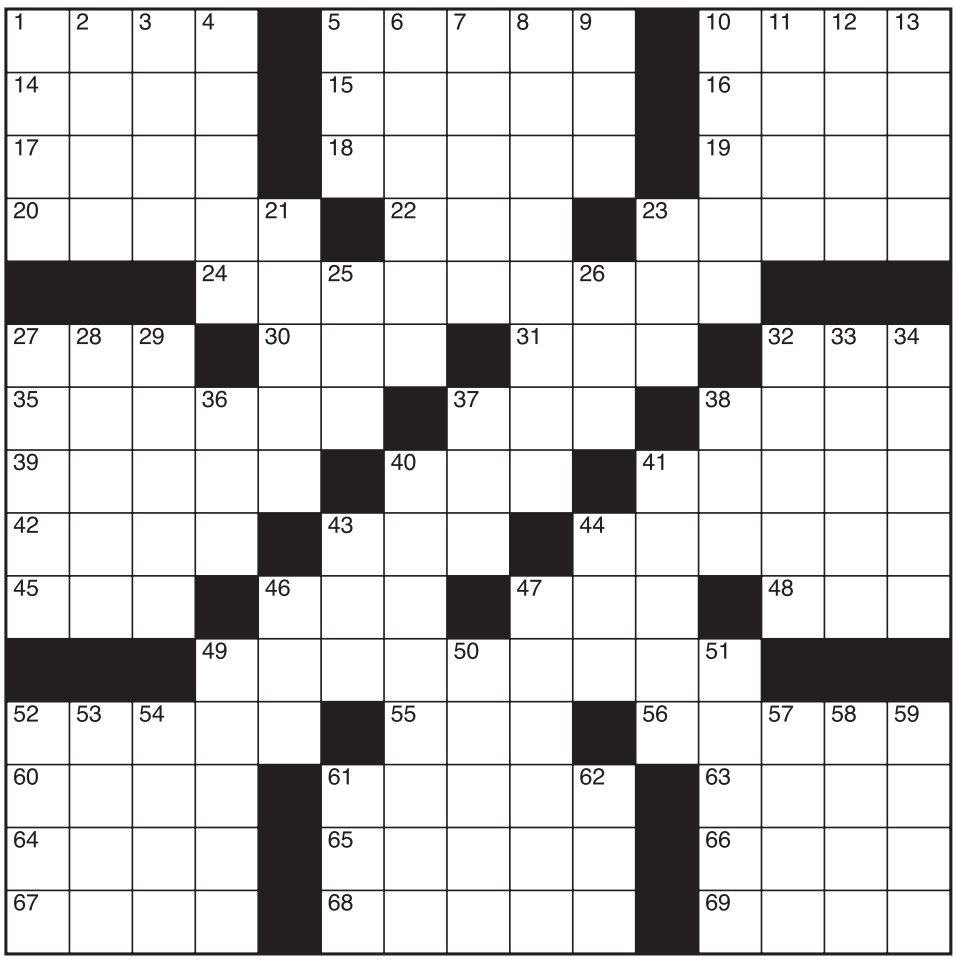


CLUES ACROSS
1. Long piece of squared timber
5. Emaciation
10. "Bewitched" boss Larry
14. Combining form meaning "different"
15. Current unit equal to 10 amperes
16. Older
17. Large, stocky lizard
18. Ringworm
19. Actor Pitt
20. Indian hand clash cymbals
22. Data at rest
23. Jeweled headdress
24. Indicators of when stories were written
27. Check
30. Cigarette (slang)
31. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
32. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
35. Delivered a speech
37. A place to bathe
38. Postmen deliver it
39. Surface in geometry
40. More (Spanish)
41. __ and Venzetti
42. Exclamation at the end of a prayer
43. Hawaiian dish
44. Aggressively proud men
45. Fellow
46. Mark Wahlberg comedy
47. Mock
48. When you expect to get somewhere
49. Songs
52. Pair of small hand drums
55. Play
56. Sword
60. Evergreens and shrubs genus
61. Filmed
63. Italian Seaport
64. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
65. Pores in a leaf
66. U. of Miami mascot is one
67. Snakelike fishes
68. Pretended to be
69. Body part

CLUES DOWN
1. Piece of felted material
2. Ancient Greek City
3. Aquatic plant
4. Potentially harmful fungus (Brit. sp.)
5. Body art (slang)
6. One who follows the rules
7. Ordinary
8. Honorably retired from assigned duties and retaining one's title
9. Relaxing space
10. Japanese socks
11. Indian city
12. Rip
13. Icelandic book
21. Satisfies
23. Where golfers begin
25. Small amount
26. Snag
27. Determine the sum of
28. A distinctive smell
29. Exposed to view
32. Stain or blemish
33. Small loop in embroidery
34. River herring genus
36. Large beer
37. Deep, red-brown sea bream
38. Partner to cheese
40. At a deliberate pace
41. Gurus
43. Of each
44. Angry
46. Popular beverage
47. Flower cluster
49. Blocks
50. Those who benefitted from efforts of relatives (slang)
51. Polio vaccine developer
52. A (usually) large and scholarly book
53. Popular soap ingredient
54. NBAer Bradley
57. Popular movie about a pig
58. Musician Clapton
59. Not a sure thing
61. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
62. Father

Answers on page 14

Telling our stories

The Speakers Series is overjoyed to be welcoming Paul Mills to the Highlands on Wednesday, Dec. 11. Paul's presentation, "My life in music – What can happen when you follow your heart", will be delivered through anecdotes, pictures and musical examples and will describe a remarkable professional career in the Canadian music industry. Paul is a producer, a performer and a former CBC radio host. He has produced over 200 albums by some of the most well know artist this country has known including Stan Rogers, Sharon Lois and Bram, Ron Hynes and John Allan Cameron. Paul is also an outstanding guitar player and singer with a repertoire consisting of a wide variety of folk and roots-based music. After the talk, Paul will entertain us with a short set of music featuring songs by some of the well-known artists he has produced as well as some of his own compositions.

The Speakers Series, a member of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative, takes place on the second Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association Fish Hatchery, 6712 Gelert Road. Admission is $15 per person payable at the door or on line at www.tellingourstories.company.site.

As seating is limited, pre-registration is highly recommended. To obtain tickets, contact Barrie Martin by at 705-457-7557 or by email at barrieinthehighlands@gmail.com

Submitted

MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST — Yours to Explore — highlandseast.ca

Committee of Adjustment
Notice of Public Hearing

Application for Minor Variance
MV-03-2024

Take Notice that the Committee of Adjustment of the Municipality of Highlands East will hold a Public Hearing under s. 45 of the *Planning Act* to hear application MV-03-2024 on:

Date: December 12, 2024
Time: 1 PM
Format: In-person Hearing
Location: Lounge, Lloyd Watson Community Centre (2249 Loop Road, Wilberforce Ontario)

Location of the Subject Lands: Part Lot 9, Concession 6, Geographic Township of Glarmorgan, Described as Parts 1 and 2, Plan 19R-3820. The civic address is 2136 Irondale Road (see Key Map below).

Purpose and Effect of the Application:

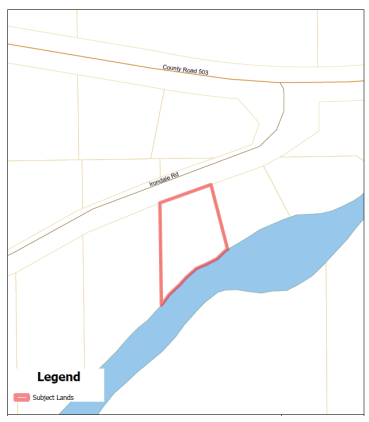
The applicants have requested relief from the following provision of the Municipality of Highlands East Comprehensive Zoning By-law (2005-29), being:

1. **Relief from** Section 3.16 d) to permit a modular home with a width of 4.66 m where 6 m is permitted by the by-law. Relief of 1.34 m is required.

The proposed relief is to permit the placement of a modular home on the subject property.

Any Person may attend the public hearing and/or make written comments to the Municipality of Highlands East either in support of, or in opposition to the proposed minor variance. Any written comments should be forwarded to the undersigned at kroberts@highlandseast.ca by 4:00 pm on Wednesday, December 11, 2024.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Committee of Adjustment for the Municipality of Highlands East in respect to the proposed minor variance application, you must submit a written request to the Municipality of Highlands East. For more information about this matter, contact the undersigned at kroberts@highlandseast.ca.



Additional Information regarding this application will be available for public inspection at the Municipality of Highlands East main office, located at 2249 Loop Road, Wilberforce Ontario during regular office hours, Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Materials are also available by request via e-mail to kroberts@highlandseast.ca.

Accessibility: The Municipality of Highlands East is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

Privacy Disclosure: As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Municipality as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Municipality with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

Dated this 2nd day of December 2024

Kimberley Roberts, Junior Planner for the Municipality of Highlands East
Secretary-Treasurer, Highlands East Committee of Adjustment

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Deadline Friday at 4 pm

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520 THANK YOU

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Thank You
TO ALL THESE GREAT FOLKS

Our friends at Dysart et al
Andrea Mueller, Rob Camelon, Dave Coulter, Hailey Cole, Abby Roberts, Fire Dept. Volunteers, O.P.P. and EMS Starters: Bill Frost, Brayden Frost, Kristie Frost, Jaylin Frost, Bob Amos, Jesse Lefebvre, Bill Hodges Traffic and Parking Controllers: Matt Oullette, Irv Handler, Brian Monaghan, Bob Park, Tim Nicholls, Will Craftchik, Jaylin Frost. Fowler Construction and Tony for the pylons. Our Friends at Haliburton United Church Sunbelt Rentals. Many Thanks to all those who entered with their lights, music and WONDERFULLY DECORATED FLOATS & ENTHUSIASTIC DANCERS AND WALKERS AND OUR EQUINE FRIENDS. Those of the Santa Float: David & Betty Mills, Gerald Hadley, James Lawr, Marilyn Frost, Paul Sheardown, Rosemarie Colbourne, Renee Griffith, Bill Frost, and Emmerson Lumber folks Bob Amos, Bill Hodges, Jesse Lefebvre.
Remembering Ken Noble, Jim Meadows, Ernie Winterburn and Sam Charlton
Thanks to Andy Salvatori and Family for donating the tree and to Dysart Fire volunteers and Emmerson Lumber for felling and erecting the tree Anthony and Juliane VanLieshout for the location and hydro for the tree. Gord and Kathryn Kidd for the Carol Sing CanoeFM & MooseFM, Echo & Highlander for all your help ! Thanks to those donors for helping with the parade cost. And anyone I may have missed!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

From Jim Frost Parade Coordinator,
Downtown Haliburton BIA, and
Haliburton and District Lions Club

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650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Stanley "Neil" Reynolds

Passed away peacefully at home in Tyrone, Ontario on Thursday, November 28, 2024, at the age of 78.

Loving husband Sheila (nee Brice). Survived by his brothers-in law Merrill Barry, Peter (Barb) Brice, Douglas (Carla) Brice and his sisters-in-law Wanda Reynolds, Mary-Jane Reynolds, Elsie Reynolds, Kathryn (Doug) Doede, predeceased by Frances (Victor) Woods, Barbara (Wilfred) Barry, James Reynolds, William (Blythe) Reynolds, Joy (Ken) Hall, Gloria (Glen) Sisson, Benjamin Reynolds, Robert Reynolds and Merrie Barry. Fondly remembered by his many nieces and nephews, extended family and friends.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden K0M 2K0 on Thursday from 4:00 until 6:00 pm. A Celebration of Neil's Life will be held on Friday, December 6, 2024 at 11:00 am. Reception to follow at the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home. Spring Interment at St. Peter's Cemetery, Maple Lake.

Memorial Donations to the Salvation Army or Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre, Oshawa would be appreciated by the family.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

Eleanor Emmerson (nee Parish)

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to a loving wife and mother. Eleanor Hazel Emmerson (nee Parish) passed away suddenly November 18th, 2024 surrounded by family. Daughter of Wesley and Hazel Parish (nee Thompson), beloved wife of Tom, Mother to Todd (Stephanie) and Joanne (Don), Grandmother to Shelby and Tom, sister to Allan (Judy), sister-in-law to Edward (Caroline), Wayne (Judy), Melissa (Colin), as well as many nieces and nephews.

Eleanor was a wonderful artist who loved to laugh. She was also an avid gardener and loved her home. She deeply loved her husband of 62 years. She will be incredibly missed.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Gilmour and the wonderful staff at Haliburton Hospital for all their care and attention.

Private Family Service

As per the family's wishes, the family will honour Eleanor's life in a private celebration. As an expression of sympathy, donations can be made to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209.

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Six Points and Counting
Cody Hodgson making his talents felt as Team Canada takes on the world

1st Christmas in the Snow
Rotary exchange student from Taiwan isn't complaining about all the snow

27-year-old Book Launch
It's taken Gord Kidd a long time to publish his book but it's worth the wait

THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY
Tuesday, December 23, 2008 www.haliburtonecho.ca Vol. 125 No. 52 $1.25 incl. GST

Dave Burton is new county warden

CHAD INGRAM
Staff Reporter

Haliburton County has a new warden.

Highlands East Reeve Dave Burton was inaugurated as the county's warden for 2009 at a ceremony in the county council chambers on December 16.

Burton was nominated for the position by Algonquin Highlands Deputy-reeve Tom Gardner, who described Burton as "easy to work with."

The nomination was seconded by Minden Hills Deputy-reeve Cheryl Murdoch.

"I know Dave can do this for us," Murdoch said. "You have to really care. If you're going to do the job right, you've got to get around to see all the people."

No other nominations were made and Burton took the position by acclamation.

After reciting the warden's oath of office, he took the podium to give a short acceptance speech.

"I won't let you down," Burton told the room, which included dozens of guests.

Burton said among his priorities for the upcoming year would be updating the county's official plan, pursuing environmentally

See **Warden** page 9

MATT JAMES/Echo

That's right! Only two more days till Christmas!

Kindergarten students Emma Tidey covers her eye while Dante Wilson holds up two fingers in Stuart Baker Elementary School's annual Christmas concert on December 18. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 displayed their talents with a little help from their teachers. For more Christmas concert capers turn to page 23.

Toronto to discover Haliburton is one of a kind

JENN WATT
Staff Reporter

Local artists Sandi Luck and Charles O'Neil are two of the 24 artists from Eastern Ontario chosen to attend the Spring 2009 One of a Kind show in Toronto.

The artists are being sponsored by the federal government.

MP Barry Devolin recognized the two Haliburton artists for their unique products at Heritage House Café Thursday afternoon during an announcement of the $125,000 project.

"As an MP … I appreciate the special flavour artists and artisans [bring] to this community," Devolin said.

Funding for the 24 artists, along with market readiness workshops, was a project that originated in Haliburton with the Haliburton County Development Corporation. Jim Blake, community economic development co-ordinator, along with HCDC vice-chairperson Barb Bolin, conceived of a program that would make a special place for Eastern Ontario artists at the One of a Kind show.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for people to take the next leap in their work," Bolin said at Heritage House Café.

She thanked the federal government for the money and Blake for being the "perfect stick handler" on the project.

The two said they wanted to create an export market for Haliburton, and Eastern Ontario, art and this is just the beginning of a concerted effort.

At the show there will be a designated section for Eastern Ontario that shoppers can wan-

See **One of a Kind** page 10

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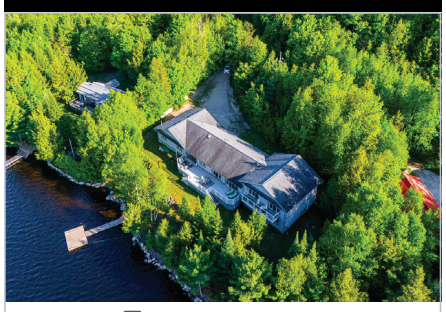

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HALIBURTON LAKE
$799,000

3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# 40645912

GULL RIVER
$759,900

5 X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# 40638549

EAGLE LAKE
$699,900

OPEN HOUSE - DEC. 7 12:00 - 2:00

2 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# 40682327

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS
$679,900

*DEEDED ACCESS TO MAPLE LAKE | MLS# 40655801

BLACK RIVER/DRAG LAKE
$499,000

3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# 40602565

HIGHLAND GROVE
$474,900

3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# 40611581

CHANDLER POINT
$67,000

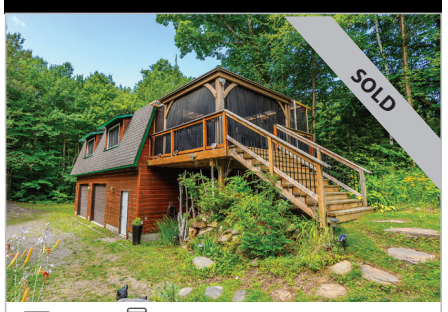
FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP

MLS# 40578158

EAGLE LAKE
$597,000

3 X BED | 3 X BATH | MLS# 40678658

ALLEN LAKE-HARCOURT PARK
$595,000

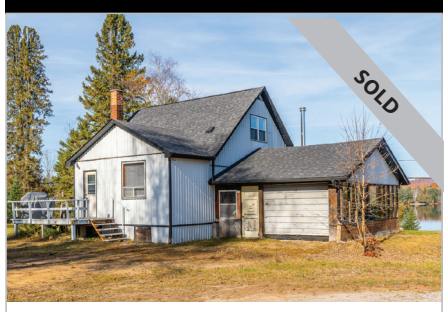


2 X BED | 2 X BATH | MLS# 40634507

HALIBURTON LAKE
$1,250,000

MLS# 40645925

WEST GUILFORD
$395,000



MLS# 40665518

VACANT LAND FOR SALE

Redstone Lake
MLS 40641108
$499,900
1.16 Acres

SOLD
Harburn Road
MLS 40617452
$395,000
147.08 Acres

Haliburton Lake Road
MLS 40585911
$250,000
14.53 Acres

Bethel Road
MLS 40607822
$191,000
24.65 Acres

Basshaunt Lake Road
MLS 40647881
$109,000
2.19 Acres

Wenona Lake Road
MLS 40616395
$109,000
0.42 Acres

FEATURED LISTING

LISTED AT - $699,900

1323 Basshaunt Lake Road

Eagle Lake

Newly built 2022

2.34 Acres

MLS 40679511

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner
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www.baumgartnerrealty.ca

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